

21 FEB 1951

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## GENERAL

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1. Possible warning to USSR against attacking Yugoslavia--  
 US Embassy Moscow, in weighing the pro's and con's of a further Western warning to the USSR and the Satellites against launching an attack on Yugoslavia, comes to the conclusion it is probably undesirable at this time to make a pronouncement. The Embassy recognizes the apprehension of British, French, and Italian representatives in Moscow over the possibility that considerable doubt exists in the minds of Soviet planners as to whether the Western Powers would react vigorously with military force against a Soviet attack on Yugoslavia. The Embassy believes, however, that a categoric public announcement would tend to "engage Soviet prestige" and would therefore seem likely to increase tensions. The Embassy further considers that secretly warning the USSR would be of "doubtful wisdom" because of the possibility of inadvertent leaks and subsequent confusion. The Embassy also questions the advisability of giving Tito "a blank check" through a warning to the USSR.

Concerning the possibility of Soviet or Satellite attack on Yugoslavia in the near future, the Embassy reports it has no information to suggest any greater imminence of such an attack. The Embassy notes, however, the recent British withdrawal, at the NAT Council of Deputies, of their previous estimate that a Satellite attack on Yugoslavia is improbable until after the 1951 training season and refers to information pointing to an increase in the tempo of Satellite military activity. In these circumstances, the Embassy believes it may be urgently necessary for the US and the West to consider what the military reaction of the West would be to an attack on Yugoslavia.

State Dept. review  
 completed

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Document No. 044NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 31 MAR 1978 By: ☐

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2. French-Italian conference on foreign policy--In forwarding a statement of the results of the recent conference between the foreign ministers of France and Italy, US Embassy Rome comments that the best result of the conference, from the US point of view, may be that it disclosed no lessening of French-Italian support of the primacy of NATO objectives over the long-range problems of European unification. The Embassy also believes that the conference has strengthened the Italian Government by giving it an appearance of pursuing an independent foreign policy, with the promise of French support of Italian views in international forums.

#### EUROPE

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3. FRANCE: Stability of government deteriorating--US Embassy Paris reports that the stability of the Pleven Government has deteriorated in past weeks and attributes this trend to the reluctance of the coalition parties to compromise on their difficulties. The Embassy believes there is not much time for the government to maneuver a way out of the situation and points out that it is faced simultaneously with two exceptionally tough problems: electoral law reform and the choice of measures to cope with the economic imbalance created by the West's rearmament program. The Embassy considers that the most ominous sign has been the growing indifference of the coalition partners to the fate of the present government, with some members of almost every party declaring that the present Assembly itself is "worn out" and elections should take place soon. The Embassy feels that in this atmosphere much depends on the will, skill, and perseverance of Pleven and on President Auriol's continued intention to accept the government's resignation only if it is overthrown by Assembly vote and not as a result of the resignation of the ministers of one party.

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